

## Message Text

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TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS IN ARMAMENTS DEVELOPMENT

REF: A. USNATO 3710

B. USNATO 2779 NOTAL

C. USNATO A-52, MARCH 19, 1975 NOTAL

SUMMARY. THE JUNE 23-26 MEETING OF THE ARMY ARMAMENTS GROUP PANEL ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS (AC/225 PANEL VIII) PROVIDED SOME INSIGHTS INTO DIFFICULTIES WE SEE IN EARLY RECOGNITION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF EQUIPMENT. WE USE PANEL VIII ONLY AS AN EXAMPLE TO POINT OUT THAT, UNTIL NATO CAN PERFORM THE FUNCTION, CAPITALS HAVE TO TAKE ON A GREATER "CLEARING HOUSE" ROLE AND EXAMINE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS AT AN EARLY STAGE. WE SUGGEST WASHINGTON INCLUDE KEY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE US COMMUNICATIONS COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS OTHER SPECIALIZED COMMUNITIES, IN ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENT BEING FORMED TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION IN ARMS DEVELOPMENT. WE ALSO SEE ADVANTAGE IN AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE EUROGROUP AND THE  
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EMERGING WASHINGTON ARRANGEMENT TO DISCUSS NOT ONLY A COMMON APPROACH TO THE EUROPGROUP INITIATIVE, BUT ALSO TO ENCOURAGE A FULLER DIALOGUE BETWEEN EUROPGROUP SUB-GROUPS (SUCH AS EUROCOM) AND NATO BODIES WORKING IN RELATED FIELDS. END SUMMARY.

1. REF A REPORTED HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JUNE 23-26, 1975, MEETING OF THE ARMY ARMAMENTS GROUP PANEL ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS (AC/225 PANEL VIII). THIS MEETING, LIKE SO MANY OTHERS IN WHICH NATIONAL ARMAMENTS SPECIALISTS GATHER AT NATO, PROVIDED AN EXAMPLE OF HOW OPPORTUNITIES MAY GET LOST IN STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY BECAUSE OF NATO'S MANAGEMENT GAP WHICH INHIBITS EFFECTIVE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE WORKING SPECIALIST LEVEL AND POLICY OR POLITICAL LEVEL.

2. IN THIS MESSAGE, WE USE THE PANEL VIII MEETING FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY AND INTEND NO CRITICISM WHATEVER OF THE COMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS THEMSELVES. ON THE CONTRARY, THE VAST MAJORITY OF NATIONAL REPS ON THE PANEL WERE BOTH KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THEIR FIELD AND SINCERE IN THEIR DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO GREATER STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY. IN THIS RESPECT, PANEL VIII IS TYPICAL OF NATO ARMAMENTS GROUPS, WHERE REPS EXCHANGE VALUABLE INFORMATION AND ARE SOMETIMES ABLE TO COOPERATE IN SPECIFIC AREAS, ALBEIT ON AN INCREMENTAL BASIS. HOWEVER, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, THESE NATIONAL REPS ARE FAR REMOVED FROM THEIR COUNTRIES' POLICY LEVELS WHERE THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS ON INCREASING COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS DEVELOPMENT WILL OCCUR. SP NATO'S MANAGEMENT GAP IS REFLECTED IN, OR MORE LIKELY STEMS FROM, A SIMILAR GAP IN CAPITALS.

3. AT THE PANEL VIII MEETING, AS REPORTED REF A, THE NORWEGIAN REP DISCUSSED HIS COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT OF A DIGITAL DATA SET FOR TRANSMITTING INFORMATION FROM ARTILLERY OBSERVATION POSTS TO FIRE DIRECTION CENTERS. NORWAY HAS NOT CONSIDERED THIS ITEM FOR COOPERATIVE EFFORT AND IT IS PROBABLY TOO LATE NOW. YET THE US HAS WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE SIMILAR EQUIPMENT, PART OF THE US TACFIRE SYSTEM, WHICH WAS DISCUSSED IN A PRESENTATION MADE TO A DIFFERENT PANEL OF THE SAME ARMY ARMAMENTS GROUP (AC/225 PANEL XIII) DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 16.

4. THOUGH AN OPPORTUNITY TO COOPERATE IN THIS DIGITAL DATA  
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SET HAS BEEN LOST, PANEL VIII DISCUSSIONS DISCLOSED THAT ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY EXISTS FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF DIFFERENT EQUIPMENT. AS ALSO REPORTED REF A, THE US, UK AND FRG ARE DEVELOPING TACTICAL FACSIMILE EQUIPMENT. STANDARDIZATION, OR AT LEAST INTEROPERABILITY, SEEMS TO BE WITHIN REACH. PROBABLY A TRILATERAL APPROACH WOULD BE THE BEST TACTIC TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS EQUIPMENT. IF THIS OPPORTUNITY IS JUST LEFT ON THE PANEL VIII TABLE, WE DOUBT THE FRG OR UK REPS WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO SELL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF FACSIMILE EQUIPMENT BACK IN BONN OR LONDON.

5. THESE TWO EXAMPLES UNDERLINE A CENTRAL SHORTCOMING IN

NATO MANAGEMENT OF COOPERATIVE ARMAMENTS PROGRAMS. UNTIL NATO CAN BETTER ACT AS A "CLEARING HOUSE", AND OPERATE ACROSS THE ARBITRARY BOUNDARIES OF DIFFERENT ARMAMENTS GROUPS, NATIONS HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARISE AND TAKE ACTION TO INITIATE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AT AN EARLY STAGE. WE SEE WASHINGTON'S ORGANIZATION BEING DEVELOPED TO HANDLE THE EUROGROUP INITIATIVE AND, WE HOPE, THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS, AS HAVING TO TAKE ON SOME OF THIS CLEARING HOUSE FUNCTION AS IT RELATES TO THE US. AS THE EXAMPLES ABOVE SUGGEST, IT SEEMS TO US THAT KEY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE US COMMUNICATIONS COMMUNITY SHOULD BE REPRESENTED IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENT, ALONG WITH KEY PERSONNEL HAVING RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPING OTHER TYPES OF EQUIPMENT IN WHICH NATO COOPERATION IS FEASIBLE.

6. ONE OTHER ASPECT OF THE PANEL VIII MEETING POINTED TO THE NEED FOR COORDINATION, THOUGH OF A DIFFERENT TYPE. MOST EUROPEAN REPS ON NATO ARMAMENTS GROUPS CONCERNED WITH COMMUNICATIONS ALSO SIT ON, OR COORDINATE WITH, EUROCOM, A SUBGROUP OF THE EUROGROUP. ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS, THESE REPS HAVE DEVELOPED AND THEN PROPOSED A EUROCOM POSITION FOR ADOPTION BY NATO AND HAVE DEMONSTRATED INFLEXIBILITY IN THEIR INSTRUCTIONS. THIS TENDENCY HAS NOT USUALLY BEEN TO THE UNITED STATES' ADVANTAGE. THE EUROCOM REPS ALSO ARE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THAT BODY'S ACTIVITIES, BOTH HERE AT NATO AND AT MEETINGS OF THE ALLIED TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY (ATCA). WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED THESE PROBLEMS IN REFS B AND C.

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7. RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION THE EUROGROUP CAN MAKE TO NATO'S DEFENSE, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO BE CRITICAL OF THE IDENTITY WHICH THE EUROPEANS ARE OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO FOSTER. AT THE SAME TIME, WE SEE A NEED FOR A BETTER DIALOGUE THAN HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE. IN A RECENT INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH A MISSION OFFICER, THE EUROGROUP STAFF GROUP SECRETARY SUGGESTED AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AT "MIDDLE-LEVEL" WITH WASHINGTON CONCERNING THE EUROGROUP INITIATIVE BROACHED BY UK MOD MASON AT THE LAST MINISTERIAL MEETING. SUCH AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS MIGHT PROVE USEFUL NOT ONLY CONCERNING THE GRAND DESIGN, BUT ALSO WOULD GIVE THE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE A BETTER DIALOGUE BETWEEN EUROGROUP SUB-GROUPS (SUCH AS EUROCOM) AND THE COGNIZANT NATO BODIES WORKING IN RELATED FIELDS.

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